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STATUS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF  
ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Report of the Secretary-General

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\* A/37/150.

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, being convinced of the necessity to ensure the universal recognition in law and in fact of the principle of equality of men and women, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and expressed the hope that the Convention would be signed and ratified or acceded to without delay and would come into force at an early date. The Secretary-General, on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1980/34, was requested to present the text of the Convention to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women held at Copenhagen from 14 to 18 July 1980, for its information and to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a report on the status of the Convention.
2. By its resolution 35/140 of 11 December 1980, the General Assembly, having noted the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention (A/35/428), expressed its great satisfaction that since the adoption by the General Assembly in December 1979 of the Convention, 79 Member States had signed and 9 Member States acceded to or ratified the Convention. The General Assembly invited States which had not yet become Parties to the Convention to sign and to ratify or to accede to it, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a report on the status of the Convention.
3. By its resolution 36/131 of 14 December 1981, the General Assembly, having noted the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention (A/36/295 and Add.1), expressed its appreciation for the significant number of Member States which had already ratified or acceded to the Convention and welcomed with great satisfaction the entry into force of the Convention on 3 September 1981. The Assembly also noted the important number of Member States which had signed the Convention and invited all States which had not yet done so to become Parties to the Convention by ratifying or acceding to it and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention.
4. The Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-ninth session also considered the Convention. On the recommendation of the Commission the Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session of 1982, adopted resolution 1982/17, in which it welcomed with great satisfaction the entry into force of the Convention on 3 September 1981, urged Governments that had not yet become parties to the Convention to ratify it or accede to it, expressed its interest in the earliest possible commencement of the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, requested the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Committee to the Commission on the Status of Women for its information and recommended the Secretary-General to consider a concerted information effort to spread knowledge regarding the Convention (E/1982/14, E/CN.6/1982/4).

## II. STATUS OF THE CONVENTION

5. The Convention was opened for signature in New York on 1 March 1980. In accordance with article 27, paragraph 1, of the Convention, it entered into force on 3 September 1981, on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

6. As at 30 June 1982, the Convention had received 88 signatures, 37 of which had been followed by ratification, and 2 States had acceded to the Convention, bringing the total number of ratifications and accessions to 39.

7. The list of States which have signed and ratified the Convention, as well as the dates of their signatures, ratifications and accessions is contained in annex I to the present report. Since 5 August 1981, the last date on which the Secretary-General reported on the status of the Convention (A/36/295 and Add.1), the States that have signed the Convention are Benin and Greece. Since that date, those that have ratified or acceded to the Convention are Austria, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, Panama, Romania, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia. A number of those States have also made reservations at the time of ratification or accession and the texts of those reservations appear in annex II.

## III. ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

8. In accordance with article 17, paragraph 1, of the Convention, a Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of 23 experts has been elected at the first Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on 16 April 1982 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

9. At that Meeting, where 36 States Parties were represented, all 23 candidates nominated by the States Parties to the Convention obtained the required absolute majority of votes. The names and countries of the elected Committee members are found in annex III.

10. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, established under article 17, paragraph 1, of the Convention "for the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the Convention" will hold its first session in 1982 to solve procedural questions and its second session in 1983 to consider national reports on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which States Parties have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and on the progress made in this respect.

11. According to article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the Committee will report annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

ANNEX I

List of States which have signed, ratified, or  
 acceded to the Convention

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instruments of ratification or accession</u>
Afghanistan	14 August 1980	
Argentina	17 July 1980	
Australia	17 July 1980	
Austria	17 July 1980	31 March 1982
Barbados	24 July 1980	16 October 1980
Belgium	17 July 1980	
Benin	11 November 1981	
Bhutan	17 July 1980	31 August 1981
Bolivia	30 May 1980	
Bulgaria	17 July 1980	8 February 1982
Brazil	31 March 1981	
Burundi	17 July 1980	
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	17 July 1980	4 February 1981
Canada	17 July 1980	10 December 1981
Cape Verde		5 December 1980 a/
Chile	17 July 1980	
China	17 July 1980	4 November 1980
Colombia	17 July 1980	19 January 1982
Congo	29 July 1980	
Costa Rica	17 July 1980	
Cuba	6 March 1980	17 July 1980
Czechoslovakia	17 July 1980	16 February 1982
Democratic Kampuchea	17 October 1980	
Denmark	17 July 1980	
Dominica	15 September 1980	15 September 1980
Dominican Republic	17 July 1980	
Ecuador	17 July 1980	9 November 1981
Egypt	16 July 1980	18 September 1981
El Salvador	14 November 1980	19 August 1981
Ethiopia	8 July 1980	10 September 1981
Finland	17 July 1980	

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instruments of ratification or accession</u>
France	17 July 1980	
Gabon	17 July 1980	
Gambia	29 July 1980	
German Democratic Republic	25 June 1980	9 July 1980
Germany, Federal Republic of	17 July 1980	
Ghana	17 July 1980	
Greece	2 March 1982	
Grenada	17 July 1980	
Guinea	17 July 1980	
Guinea-Bissau	17 July 1980	
Guatemala	8 June 1981	
Guyana	17 July 1980	17 July 1980
Haiti	17 July 1980	20 July 1981
Honduras	11 June 1980	
Hungary	6 June 1980	22 December 1980
Iceland	24 July 1980	
India	30 July 1980	
Indonesia	29 July 1980	
Israel	17 July 1980	
Italy	17 July 1980	
Ivory Coast	17 July 1980	
Jamaica	17 July 1980	
Japan	17 July 1980	
Jordan	3 December 1980	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	17 July 1980	14 August 1981
Lesotho	17 July 1980	
Luxembourg	17 July 1980	
Madagascar	17 July 1980	
Mexico	17 July 1980	23 March 1981
Mongolia	17 July 1980	20 July 1981
Netherlands	17 July 1980	
New Zealand	17 July 1980	
Nicaragua	17 July 1980	27 October 1981
Norway	17 July 1980	21 May 1981
Panama	26 June 1980	29 October 1981
Peru	23 July 1981	

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instruments of ratification or accession</u>
Philippines	15 July 1980	5 August 1981
Poland	29 May 1980	30 July 1980
Portugal	24 April 1980	30 July 1980
Romania	4 September 1980	7 January 1982
Rwanda	1 May 1980	2 March 1981
Senegal	29 July 1980	
Spain	17 July 1980	
Sri Lanka	17 July 1980	5 October 1981
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		4 August 1981 a/ 2 July 1980
Sweden	7 March 1980	
Tunisia	24 July 1980	
Uganda	30 July 1980	
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	17 July 1980	12 March 1981
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	17 July 1980	23 January 1981
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	22 July 1981	
United Republic of Tanzania	17 July 1980	
United States of America	17 July 1980	
Uruguay	30 March 1981	9 October 1981
Venezuela	17 July 1980	
Viet Nam	29 July 1980	17 February 1982
Yugoslavia	17 July 1980	26 February 1982
Zaire	17 July 1980	
Zambia	17 July 1980	

Notes

a/ Accession.

ANNEX II

Reservations made at the time of ratification a/

AUSTRIA

[Original: English]  
[31 March 1982]

Austria reserves its right to apply the provision of article 7 (b), as far as service in the armed forces is concerned, and the provision of article 11, as far as night work of women and special protection of working women is concerned, within the limits established by national legislation.

BULGARIA

[Original: English]  
[8 February 1982]

The People's Republic of Bulgaria does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

[Original: English]  
[16 February 1982]

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, in accordance with paragraph 2, article 29, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, does not consider itself to be bound under paragraph 1 of its article 29. In the opinion of Czechoslovakia, any disputes concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Convention should be solved by direct negotiations between the parties to the dispute or in another manner to be agreed upon by the parties to the dispute.

EGYPT

[Original: Arabic]

[18 September 1981]

Article 9

1. Reservation to the text of article 9, paragraph 2, concerning the granting of women of equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children. This must be without prejudice to the acquisition by a child born of a marriage of the nationality of his father. This is in order to prevent a child's acquisition of two nationalities, since this may be prejudicial to his future. It is clear that the child's acquisition of his father's nationality is the procedure most suitable for the child and that this does not infringe upon the principle of equality between men and women, since it is the custom for a woman to agree, on marrying an alien, that her children shall be of the father's nationality.

Article 16

2. Reservation to the text of article 16 concerning the equality of men and women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations during the marriage and upon its dissolution. This must be without prejudice to the Islamic Sharia provisions whereby women are accorded rights equivalent to those of their spouses so as to ensure a just balance between them. This is out of respect for the sanctity deriving from firm religious beliefs which govern marital relations in Egypt and which may not be called in question and in view of the fact that one of the most important bases of these relations is an equivalency of rights and duties so as to ensure complementarity which guarantees true equality between the spouses and not a quasi-equality that renders the marriage a burden on the wife. This is because the provisions of the Islamic Sharia lay down that the husband shall pay bridal money to the wife and maintain her fully out of his own funds and shall also make a payment to her upon divorce, whereas the wife retains full rights over her property and is not obliged to spend anything on her keep. The Sharia therefore restricts the wife's rights to divorce by making it contingent on a judge's ruling, whereas no such restriction is laid down in the case of the husband.

Article 29

3. The Egyptian delegation maintains the reservation contained in article 29, paragraph 2, concerning the right of a State signatory to the Convention to declare that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of that article concerning the submission of any arbitral body of any dispute which may arise between States concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention. This is in order to avoid being bound by the system of arbitration in this field.



General reservation on article 2

4. Egypt is willing to comply with the content of this article, provided that such compliance does not run counter to the Islamic Sharia.

EL SALVADOR

[Original: Spanish]

[19 August 1981]

The Government of El Salvador made a reservation with regard to the application of the provisions of article 29, paragraph 1 of the Convention.

ETHIOPIA

[Original: English]

[10 September 1981]

In ratifying the said Convention, Socialist Ethiopia does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of article 29 of the Convention.

ROMANIA

[Original: English]

[7 January 1982]

1. The Socialist Republic of Romania states that it does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention, whereby any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration.

2. Romania believes that such disputes may be submitted to arbitration only with the consent of all States parties to the dispute, for each specific case.

VIET NAM

[Original: French]

[17 February 1982]

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam will not be bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of article 29.

Notes

a/ For previous reservations see A/35/428, annex II, and A/36/295, annex II.

ANNEX III

Membership of the Committee on the Elimination of  
Discrimination against Women

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>
Ms. Aleksandra Pavlovna Biryukova	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Ms. Marie Caron	Canada
Ms. Irene R. Cortes	Philippines
Ms. Graciela Escudero Moscoso	Ecuador
Ms. Shirley Field-Ridley	Guyana
Ms. Aida Gonzales Martínez	Mexico
Ms. Luvsandanzangyn Ider	Mongolia
Ms. Zagorka Ilić	Yugoslavia
Ms. Vinitha Jayasinghe	Sri Lanka
Ms. Vanda Lamm	Hungary
Ms. Raquel Macedo de Sheppard	Uruguay
Ms. Lia Patino de Martínez	Panama
Ms. Guan Minguian	China
Ms. Maria Margarida de Rego da Costa Salema Moura Ribeiro	Portugal
Ms. Landrada Mukayiranga	Rwanda
Ms. Nguyen Ngoc Dung	Viet Nam
Mr. John Nordenfelt	Sweden
Ms. Edith Oeser	German Democratic Republic
Ms. Vesselina Peytcheva	Bulgaria
Ms. Maria Regent-Lechowicz	Poland

Name

Ms. Rakel Surlicn

Ms. Mervat Tallawy

Ms. Esther Veliz de Villalvilla

Country

Norway

Arab Republic of Egypt

Cuba

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